Acquisition of Land for Reconstruction of Umshyrpi Bridge in Meghalaya

1291. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Umshyrpi Bridge in Meghalaya was constructed about 80 years back by the Britishers and was meant for 10 tons traffic;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Bridge is in bad condition and the traffic is passing upto 20 tons its volume being the same as on the National Highway No. 44;

(c) whether the Ministry of Surface Transport has already sanctioned and approved reconstruction of the bridge for which land is to be acquired, and a small portion of that land fall under Shillong Cantonment; and

(d) what are the reasons for not approving the acquisition of the said land in Shillong Cantonment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Govt. of Meghalaya the existing Bridge over river Umshyrpi was constructed about 80 years back and the bridge is very narrow and weak and is inadequate to cope with the present traffic intensity.

(c) The Ministry of Surface Transport have approved the site for the new bridge and have also sanctioned estimates for carrying out survey and investigation of the area. The site for the bridge and the approaches pass through Defence land in Shillong Cantonment.

(d) This Ministry propose to transfer about 2 acres of land to the State Govt. of Meghalaya for the purpose on payment of market value for the land and the assets, after getting details of the exact alignment of the road and the cost of assets.

Expenditure incurred on the PM'S visit

1292. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total expenditure incurred on Prime Minister's visit to Vancouver separately for him, his staff members and for the pressmen;

(b) whether efforts were made to keep the expenditure to the minimum; and

(c) if so, what was the planned and what was the actual expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Temporary Central Government Employees

1293. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of Central Government employees in the country;

(b) the number of them who are yet working as temporary employees;

(c) the number of these temporary employees who are working for (i) more than ten years, (ii) more than five years, (iii) more than three years and (iv) more than one year;

(d) whether Government are proposing to convert all temporary employees into permanent ones;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) According to the information contained in Chapter 3 of the Report of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, the total number of regular civilian employees under the Central Government (excluding Union Territories) was 37.87 lakh as on 1st January, 1984.

(b) and (c) The information is not available centrally.

(d) to (f) Government Officials, who are temporary, are made permanent by the concerned appointing authorities following prescribed procedure. There is no proposal to convert all temporary employees into permanent ones.

Agitation Threat by Scientists

1294. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that scientists in the country, serving various Government organisations, are planning to go on strike and resort to other means of agitation to secure their due position *vis-a-vis* IAS and other administrative services;

(b) whether any representations have been received from scientists' associations in this regard; if so, what are their precise demands;

(c) whether Government are aware that according to institutional established norms, professionals like scientists, doctors, engineers etc. are classified above all other occupations and administrators and managers are below them; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated to give their due place to scientists and other such professionals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Coordination Committee of young Scientists & Research Fellows and Post Graduate School Students Union, Indian Agricultural Research Institute had submitted to the Government the following demands;

(i) Upward revision of Research fellowships;

(ii) Implementation of revised pay scales for Research Scientists;

(iii) Improvement in service terms and conditions;

(iv) Instituting an organised research service;

(v) Representation of young scientists in National Policy and Plan formulation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Talks with China to Settle Border Dispute

1295. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state that whether any talks have been held recently with China to settle border dispute; if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : The 8th Round of Official Level Talks between India and China was held from the 15th to 17th of this month. Both sides felt that the border issue should be resolved through peaceful negotations in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and tranquility should be maintained all along the India-China boundary.

Increase in Indian Air Force Plane Accidents

1296. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the Air Force Plane accidents during 1987, as compared to 1986;

(b) if so, what is the total number of major and minor accidents of Indian Air Force planes during this year as compared to 1986;